

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[034] A method is proposed for reducing the number of vocoders in a wireless network. In certain wireless networks mechanisms exist for bypassing the encoding and decoding of voice traffic at the base station, when both ends of the call are mobile subscribers. This is known as tandem-free operation. A method is proposed where other elements of the network instruct the base station to bypass the vocoding, even when the other end of the link is not a wireless subscriber. These elements could include a packet-switched network used for backhaul, or a terminating node such as a voicemail platform. The network element instructing the base station to bypass its vocoders will then be responsible for transcoding of the voice data. This eliminates the need for extra stages of vocoding.